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6. **(Once Amended)** A communication device, comprising:

- a transmitter that transmits data;
- a receiver that receives data over a communications link;
- a signal processing circuit, coupled to the transmitter and receiver, to prepare data for transmission and to process data received by the receiver; and
- a control circuit, responsive to the signal processor, that selectively powers at least a portion of the receiver down for a period of time and that powers up the at least a portion of a receiver to check for incoming data when the selected period of time expires, wherein the control circuit includes a counter that is substantially synchronized with a counter at the source of the incoming data in response to an indication from the data source that a data transmission has ended.

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11. **(Once Amended)** The communication device of claim 6, further comprising receiving one or more packets, and wherein the control circuit powers up the at least a portion of a receiver in time to allow detection of an attempted retransmission of a packet.

12. **(Once Amended)** A communication network, comprising:

- a head end communication device;
- at least one remote communication device that is communicatively coupled to the head end communication device; and
- wherein each of the at least one remote communication device includes a control circuit that powers down a receiver of the at least one remote communication device for a selected period of time and that powers up the receiver of the at least one remote communication device to check for incoming data from the head end communication device when the selected period of time expires, wherein the control circuit includes a counter that is substantially synchronized with a counter at the source of the incoming data in response to an indication from the head end communication device that a data transmission has ended.

13. **(Once Amended)** The communication network of claim 12, wherein each of the at least one remote communication device is powered over the connection between the head end communication device and the at least one remote communication device.

14. **(Once Amended)** The communication network of claim 12, wherein each of the at least one remote communication device comprises a cable modem.

15. **(Once Amended)** The communication network of claim 12, wherein each of the remote communication device is communicatively coupled to the head end communication device over a communication network.

16. **(Once Amended)** The communication network of claim 12, wherein the head end communication

device transmits data with a protocol that allows for retransmission of data that is not acknowledged by the at least one remote communication device.

17. **(Once Amended)** A power control circuit for a communication device, the power control circuit

comprising:

a counter that establishes a selected time period for powering down a receiver of the communication device; and

a processor, coupled to the counter, that is programmed to control the reset of the counter, to power down the receiver, and to power up the receiver to check for incoming data packets transmitted by another communication device when the counter indicates that the selected time period has expired.

18. **(Once Amended)** The power control circuit of claim 17, wherein the counter establishes a time period that is sufficient to allow detection of a data packet that is retransmitted by the other communication device when no acknowledgment signal is received by the other communication device.

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

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20 19. (New) A method of power management for a communication system that includes at least one head end communication device and at least one remote communication device, comprising:

setting a counter at a remote unit to a predetermined power down period;
checking for an incoming transmission after the power down period has expired;
if an incoming transmission is received, resetting the counter in response to an indication from the head end communication device that the transmission has ended;
if no incoming transmission is received, resetting the counter to the predetermined power down period.

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21 20. (New) The method of claim 19 further comprising setting a counter at the head end device to the predetermined power down period upon sending an indication that a transmission to the remote communication device has ended.

22 21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the power down period is timed such that the remote unit will power up again in time to detect a retransmission from the head end.

23 22. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising providing a delay to account for timing variations between the counter at the remote unit and the counter at the head end unit.

24 23. (New) A method for controlling power consumption in a remote communication device in signal communication with a head end communication device, the method comprising:

starting a counter for the remote communication device to time a predetermined power down period;

powering down the remote communication device for the predetermined power down period;

powering up the remote communication device to check for any incoming data;

starting a counter for the head end communication device to time for substantially the same predetermined power down period after completion of a data transmission to the remote.

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24. (New) A method for controlling power consumption in a remote communication device in signal communication with a head end communication device, the method comprising:

starting a counter at the remote communication device to count for a predetermined power down period after the remote unit has received a transmission of a final packet or other indication that transmission from the head end communication device has come to an end;

starting a counter at the head end communication device at substantially the same time as the remote communication device counter is set;

wherein a substantial synchronization is maintained between the counters.

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25. (New) A method for controlling power consumption in a remote packet communication device in signal communication with a head end packet communication device, the method comprising:

setting a power down timer for the remote packet communication device to a power down period such that so that the remote packet communication device will power up again in time to detect a retransmission of data from the head end packet communication device.

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26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the retransmission of data comprises a ring signal.

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27. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the retransmission of data comprises a data packet.